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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00501 230642Z
ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-06
OMB-01 MED-03 HEW-06 /069 W
----------230645Z 050030 /14
P 221140Z MAR 77
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4312
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 0501

E.O. 11652: NA

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON DECRIMINALIZATION OF MARIHUANA

REF: STATE 57902

1. IRAQI RULES GOVERNING MARIHUANA POSSESSION ARE EXTREMELY STRICT. FACT THAT POSSESSION USUALLY INVOLVES SMUGGLING CHARGE, A VERY SERIOUS MATTER HERE, ADDS TO GRAVITY OF MARIHUANA CASES.

2. IRAQI LAW PROVIDES FOR DEATH PENALTY FOR CONVICTED MARIHUANA TRAFFICKERS WITH POSSIBLE COMMUTATION TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT. LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN IRAQ EFFECTIVELY MEANS TWENTY FIVE YEARS. AT LEAST TWO FOREIGN NATIONALS ARE CURRENTLY SERVING TWENTY-FIVE YEAR TERMS. WHILE THERE IS NO KNOWN DISTINCTION IN IRAQI LAW BETWEEN TRAFFICKING AND POSSESSION FOR PERSONAL USE, IRAQI AUTHORITIES HAVE IN PRACTICE DEALT MUCH MORE LENIENTLY WITH LATTER CASE WHEN SMALL AMOUNT INVOLVED AND OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES CLEARLY RULED OUT TRAFFICKING AS A MOTIVE.
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# Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** DRUG CONTROL, LAW, MARIJUANA, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
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**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** n/a
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
**Disposition Comment:**
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**Disposition Event:**
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**Disposition Remarks:**
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**Drafter:** n/a
**Enclosure:** n/a
**Executive Order:** N/A
**Errors:** N/A
**Expiration:**
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**To:** STATE
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